(d) Possibilities are being explored by the Government for extending pension coverage to identifiable groups who are presently not covered under the EPF Scheme.

Sub-regional offices of P.F. in Kerala

1307. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sub-regional offices of Provident Fund functioning in Kerala;

(b) whether Government have taken a deicision to open a Sub-regional Provident Fund office at Kollam in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when it would be functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) There are four Sub-regional office of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation in Kerala located at Ernakulam, Kozhikode, Kannur & Kottayam. The Executive Committee, Control Board of Trustees (EPF) in its meeting held on 5.9.2001 has approved the opening of Sub-Regional offices at Kollam in Kerala.

Abolition of Child labour

†1308. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have fixed a target to abolish child labour from the country by the year 2010;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government's programme for providing vocational training to rehabilitate the child labourers has been going on since long and under this programme an amount of Rs. 567 crores was allocated under this head during the period from 1980 to 2000 but merely Rs. 32 crores could be utilised out of this; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Child Labour is a complex socio-economic problem, the elimination of which would need sustained efforts over a period of time. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual and sequential approach has been adopted for withdrawal of children from work and their

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.